IN SUMMARY

Detroit Compact Conflicts
Arguments over the duties of companies and schools are slowing efforts in Detroit to provide jobs for high-school graduates who meet tougher academic standards. **Page 4.**

Trade Schools for 'Scandal'
A new report blasts New York State proprietary schools for ill-serving both students and taxpayers, while an official of one such school has pleaded guilty to fraud totaling $25 million. **Page 5.**

Family Leave and the Schools
A House panel has approved a bill mandating unpaid leave for child care and family illness, after adding amendments designed to ease concerns about its impact on schools. **Page 22.**

Reconsidering Abuse Case
The U.S. Supreme Court has vacated an appellate ruling that Pennsylvania educators violated a student's rights by not protecting her from sexual abuse by a school employee. **Page 22.**

Handicapped Mandate Probed
Witnesses at a Congressional hearing last week called for reinterpretation of the requirement to educate handicapped children in the "least restrictive" setting possible. **Page 26.**

Teaching's Knowledge Base
A prominent group of teacher educators has released the most comprehensive statement to date of the information and skills that beginning teachers need to have. **Page 32.**

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An *Education Week* guide to the annual convention of the National School Boards Association in Anaheim, Calif.
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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

First Lady, Publishers' Group Launch Attacks on Literacy Ills

Two new, privately funded programs aimed at improving literacy among adults and children were unveiled last week.

At a White House meeting, First Lady Barbara Bush announced the creation of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. The foundation will concentrate its support on programs "that bring parents and children together to build their reading and literacy skills," she said.

Aides to Mrs. Bush said she would not be directly involved in raising or distributing foundation funds. The new project will be administered through the Community Foundation of Greater Washington, Inc.

Meanwhile, an initiative launched by textbook publishers and reading specialists would target low-income and homeless children for literacy instruction.

The pilot program, said to be the first such effort specifically aimed at "at risk" youths, is scheduled to begin this spring in Kansas City, Mo., and this summer in a rural area of Iowa.

AP/Wide World

Barbara Bush led meeting on literacy.

Under the initiative, volunteers will provide biweekly tutoring and other assistance for 10 weeks to 40 children at each of the pilot sites. In addition to providing literacy instruction, the program also will help parents support development of their children's reading ability.

The Association of American Publishers has agreed to provide $30,000 to develop the programs. Member firms also have promised to supply books that students will be able to keep.

The program will be administered by the International Reading Association.

■ **"Say Yes to the Next Generation," urges an American Association of University Women campaign focusing on the needs of young women.**

The initiative, which began last week, is designed to reduce teenage-pregnancy and dropout rates and to encourage young women to explore math and science careers. Members of 1,800 A.A.U.W. branches will work to prepare girls for the labor force through career days, hands-on science programs, and workshops addressing health, self-esteem, and other common adolescent concerns.

STATES

New York Mulls Sect's Exemption From Mandatory AIDS Classes

Members of a religious group in Valley Stream, N.Y., are being temporarily excused from state-mandated AIDS-prevention classes while state education officials debate whether to grant the students a permanent exemption.

The Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court in Brooklyn last month reinstated a temporary injunction excusing the 35 Plymouth Brethren students from the AIDS classes.

In a lawsuit filed last month and in an appeal to Thomas Sobol, the state superintendent, parents of the students claim that the curriculum is morally offensive and violates their religious freedom.

The Plymouth Brethren is a conservative sect, founded in the 19th century, that seeks to minimize secular contact by shunning radio and television and forbidding youngsters from taking part in after-school activities, according to Robert Calica, the group's attorney.

The appellate court overturned a lower court's ruling and granted the temporary injunction to allow time for a decision on the issue, Mr. Calica said.

■ **Hawaii Right to Life is a "community-sponsored activity" entitled to disseminate its anti-abortion materials to schools,** the state education department has decided.

But state officials will bar the group from showing a film or two videotapes that an independent panel of physicians has deemed "biased."

Right to Life asked the education department last year to approve the film and the tapes for school use. But a committee appointed by John Lewin, the state's health director, said the materials were "medically inaccurate."

■ **School districts in 10 Mississippi counties could lose vital federal revenues if the U.S. Forest Service agrees to a land swap** proposed by the state's National Guard unit.

The districts, located within the boundaries of the 500,000-acre DeSoto National Forest, receive shares from the proceeds of timber sales based on the amount of federal acreage under their jurisdiction.

The Guard wants to take 32,000 acres out of timber production, however, to create an area for practicing tank maneuvers. In exchange, the Guard has offered a 16,000-acre tract in Colorado.

The Forest Service has proposed instead that the Department of Defense, which oversees the Guard, buy more land in Mississippi to exchange for the tract.

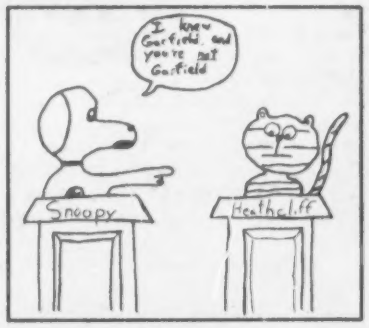
Editorial Artists

A nationwide editorial-cartoon contest testing students' observational, creative, satirical, and artistic talents has elicited more than 9,000 entries from the next generation of Herblocks, Oliphants, and Trudeaus.

"Newscurrents," a current-events program used in some 10,000 schools, is sponsoring the contest to encourage students to think critically about national and international issues.

"Our feeling is that the editorial cartoon is a different kind of educational medium," said Jonathan Baruch, editor of the program. Drawing helps students to "think about an issue and their own views of it, as well as to think about the language of cartoons and the techniques used to express an idea," he added.

Soon after the contest closes at the end of the month, members of the "Newscurrents" editorial staff will begin the difficult task of selecting winners. "We have plenty to select from," said Mr. Baruch of the entries, which cover such issues and events as the deficit, Afghanistan, the environment, and last fall's riveting debate confrontation between the Vice Presidential candidates, Dan Quayle and Lloyd Bentsen.



Contest entry of Jeff Jolley, an 8th-grade student from Kingston, Pa.

One first-prize winner and two second-prize winners will be selected in each of three age categories from kindergarten to 12th grade. The top prize is a $100 savings bond; second place carries with it a $50 savings bond.

If the contest is a success, Mr. Baruch said, the task of judging submissions may someday be turned over to a panel of professional cartoonists.

—J.W.

DISTRICTS

Rockford, Ill., Board Votes To Close 11 Schools Next Fall

Money woes and declining enrollments have led the Rockford, Ill., school board to vote to close 11 schools next year.

The school system in the state's second-largest city is one of nearly 200 that have been placed on a financial "watch list" by the state board of education for failing to meet fiscal guidelines.

A key element of the plan calls for consolidating five existing facilities into one "mega-elementary" school serving 1,200 students, school officials said.

The moves will enable the district to lay off 200 teachers and other school workers and chop $7.3 million from a projected $9-million deficit in next year's budget, they said.

■ **The Toledo Federation of Teachers must repay nearly five years' worth of fees collected from six nonunion teachers,** the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled.

The panel voted 5-2 to uphold a lower court's ruling that the money had to be refunded because the union had failed to meet

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

District of Columbia Weighing Curfew for Teenagers

By Lisa Jennings

Seeking to change the perception of Washington as the nation's "murder capital," the District of Columbia City Council has adopted legislation that would impose a citywide curfew for all young people under the age of 18.

But law-enforcement officials and civil-rights groups have reacted negatively to the plan, and as of late last week Mayor Marion S. Barry had not approved it.

The mayor has until March 15 to sign or veto the legislation. A spokesman for Mr. Barry said he was "still considering his options," and that he might amend the bill to appease concerns raised by the city's chief of police, Maurice T. Turner.

Earlier this month, Mr. Turner criticized the proposal, saying it would be difficult to enforce and would pull police manpower away from the city's escalating drug wars.

Lawyers for the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union have warned that they will file suit against the city if the mayor signs the legislation, arguing that it is a blatant violation of the First Amendment's freedom-of-association clause.

Similar arguments have been raised in several other cities where curfew laws have been adopted, including Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Trenton, N.J.

Emergency Legislation

The bill in Washington would impose a curfew of 11 P.M. on weeknights, and midnight on weekends, for youths under the age of 18.

Introduced as emergency legislation, the measure would expire after 90 days unless officials make it permanent.

Police would have the right to detain violators at a police station until they were released to a parent or guardian. If no guardian claimed the child, he or she would be held by police until 6 A.M. the next day, according to the mayor's spokesman.

Youths who work at night, or have a "legitimate" reason to be out after hours would need to obtain an affidavit signed by their parent or guardian and an employer, the proposal states.

The city council's unanimous approval of the measure reflected, members said, their desire to counter the city's serious problems with violent crime, including a record number of drug-related murders and several shootings at local high schools.

Effectiveness Questioned

But Elizabeth Symonds, a staff lawyer for the A.C.L.U. National Capital Area in Washington, said representatives from her organization who have been studying the effectiveness of such laws in other cities have found "no indication that a curfew will reduce crime."

> Police, civil-rights groups question if it will help in war on drugs.

"There is no sense in making innocent and law-abiding teenagers pay a penalty for the existence of drugs and violent crime in a city," she said.

Such laws, in effect, force policemen to "become babysitters," Ms. Symonds argued, when they should be out pursuing "major violators of criminal laws."

Several juvenile-curfew laws have been challenged on constitutional grounds, according to the A.C.L.U. lawyer, and at least one has been struck down.

And in Detroit, where such a law is in effect, the A.C.L.U. successfully sued the city on behalf of a 17-year-old curfew violator last year.

But Fred Zaharoff, a spokesman for the Detroit police department, said the law had helped reduce crime in the city.

Adopted in 1987, Detroit's law prohibits youths under the age of 15 from roaming the streets after 8 P.M. The city's 16- and 17-year olds have a curfew of 9 P.M. on weekdays, and 11 P.M. on weekends.

According to Mr. Zaharoff, Detroit's law works because police use "discretion" in enforcement. "This is not a concentration-camp-style law," he said, "you don't jump on every kid."

"If a policeman saw a group of 15-year-olds standing around, smoking cigarettes and harassing people, they might enforce the law. But if a 15-year-old is quietly walking home from grandma's house, enforcement could be more lax," he said.

Ms. Symonds of the A.C.L.U. contended, however, that "discretion" could open the door to discriminatory treatment under the law.

'Drug-Free Zones'

Meanwhile, Washington's Mayor Barry last week proposed legislation that would establish "drug-free zones" within 1,000 feet of all public schools in the city.

The measure, which is now before the city council, would provide a mandatory three-year sentence for those caught distributing drugs or engaging in violent acts within the school "zones."

Injury Leading Cause of Childhood Death, Study Indicates

Homicide is the leading cause of death from injury among children under the age of 1, a new national study has found.

The study, which charted death rates of children from causes other than illness, also found that the suicide rate for children between the ages of 10 and 14 more than doubled between 1980 and 1985, and that motor-vehicle injuries caused 37 percent of all injury-related childhood deaths.

The state-by-state study, conducted by researchers at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, found that injuries caused approximately 10,000 deaths annually over the six-year period—making injury the leading cause of childhood death in the country.

According to the report, published in the March issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, there are wide regional, racial, and sexual differences in the types and numbers of fatal injuries sustained by children.

The researchers found that childhood deaths caused by injuries were three times as likely in Alaska, which had the highest rate in the nation, as in Massachusetts, which had the lowest rate.

Injury-death rates were lowest for Asian Americans and whites, and highest for Native-American children. Black babies less than 12 months old were 2.5 times more likely than white babies to die from injuries, the study found.

The analysis also showed that 1.7 boys were killed by injuries for every girl involved in a fatal accident.

An 'Epidemic'

The new findings appear to underscore the contention of witnesses at a recent Congressional hearing that federal and state policymakers should do more to protect children from accidents.

At what was billed as the first hearing ever held on the subject, experts told lawmakers last month that serious and often fatal accidents involving children are an "epidemic" that could largely be prevented.

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop told members of the Senate Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs, and Alcoholism that each year 19 million children under the age of 15—or one out of every four—are injured seriously enough to require medical attention. Of those, 100,000 become permanently disabled, he noted.

Relatively few programs have been undertaken to reduce the number of childhood injuries, Dr. Koop said. The reason, he argued, is that the public mistakenly views accidents as being "random but nevertheless inevitable" events.

"It's not fate that randomly throws an infant through the window of the family car," he said. "Rather, it is the fact that the parent did not strap the child in an infant seat in the rear of the car and did not drive defensively on the highway."

Witnesses said the most frequent childhood injuries are those related to guns, fires, and drowning; motor vehicles; bicycles; choking on the small parts of toys; farm machinery; and all-terrain vehicles.

To limit future accidents, the experts recommended that federal and state officials adopt aggressive injury-prevention programs, including safety education for parents, teachers, and pediatricians.

Officials also should adopt tougher laws and regulations geared to children's safety, they said, targeting such areas as toys, car safety, farm machinery, and smoke detection.

The Congress has already begun to look more closely at the issue. Bills introduced in both the Senate and the House would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop warning labels for all toys containing small parts.

Two new studies, published in the February issue of *Pediatrics*, offer support for stepped-up efforts to prevent injuries. In the first study, researchers found that 75 percent of accidents in day-care centers run by the Los Angeles school district could have been prevented with only a modicum of care.

The second study suggests that many childhood deaths in rural areas may have been caused by a lack of adult supervision. —E.F.

Average Annual Death Rates by Leading Causes and Race, Ages 0-14, 1980-85

Injury Cause	White	Black	Native American	Oriental	All Races*
Motor-vehicle occupant	3.3 (9,224)	2.6 (1,217)	6.9 (166)	3.1 (162)	3.2 (9,796)
Pedestrian, traffic	2.2 (5,487)	3.8 (1,748)	3.6 (86)	2.9 (153)	2.4 (7,469)
Drowning	2.6 (6,439)	3.9 (1,814)	4.8 (131)	3.4 (180)	2.6 (8,566)
House fire	1.6 (4,080)	6.0 (2,795)	3.3 (90)	1.0 (51)	2.3 (7,021)
Fall	0.4 (933)	0.7 (333)	0.6 (17)	0.9 (46)	0.4 (1,332)
Homicide	1.3 (3,355)	4.7 (2,191)	2.7 (72)	1.9 (101)	1.9 (5,722)
All injuries	17.5 (44,217)	28.3 (13,694)	28.9 (918)	17.5 (917)	19.3 (59,711)

Note: Rate is average annual death rate per 100,000 (total deaths over 6-year period in parentheses).
*Includes cases where race was unknown.
SOURCE: American Journal of Public Health, March 1989

Injury Deaths by Cause, Ages 0-14, 1980-85

Injury Cause	Number	Rate
Motor-vehicle related, total	22,174	7.2
Motor-vehicle occupant	9,796	3.2
Pedestrian, traffic	7,469	2.4
Bicycle	2,194	0.7
Pedestrian, non-traffic	1,276	0.4
Motorcycle	690	0.2
Other motor-vehicle related	729	0.2
Drowning	8,569	2.8
House fire	7,021	2.3
Homicide	5,722	1.9
Suffocation	2,279	0.7
Firearm, unintentional	1,700	0.6
Fall	1,332	0.4
Aspiration, food	1,248	0.4
Suicide	1,214	0.4
Aspiration, other	983	0.3
Poison, solid/liquid	539	0.2
Farm machinery	508	0.2
Electric current	432	0.1
Poison, vapor	384	0.1
Airplane crash	348	0.1
Other unintentional	3,473	1.1
Unknown intent	1,237	0.4
Medical/surgical	539	0.2
All injuries	59,711	19.3

Note: Rate is average annual death rate per 100,000.
SOURCE: American Journal of Public Health, March 1989

EARLY YEARS

Although publicized accounts of sexual abuse in day-care centers have made some parents wary of them, "day care can play an instrumental role in helping children stay safe," according to the National Association of Social Workers.

An article in the March issue of *Social Work*, the N.A.S.W.'s bimonthly journal, describes a "child personal-safety program" operating in several Philadelphia day-care centers.

The program trains teachers to help develop children's awareness of their bodies and feelings and to help them distinguish positive from threatening touches. Children are taught to alert a trusted adult at any sign of sexual abuse.

The approach, introduced to nearly 200 teachers and 1,000 children by an 11-branch day-care agency in Philadelphia, also involves workshops to help educate parents about how to recognize and protect their children from such abuse.

■

Pointing to data documenting the harmful effects of physical punishment, experts from a wide range of professions have launched a campaign to stop parents from using it to discipline children.

The topic was the focus of a conference at the Wingspread center in Racine, Wis., last month, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Johnson Foundation.

Calling for "national action" on the matter, representatives of child-advocacy groups and specialists in pediatric medicine, psychology, social work, and criminal justice agreed to work together to change attitudes about the role of physical punishment in childrearing—and to educate parents about "appropriate, alternate forms of discipline."

Conference participants are planning a publicity campaign and enlisting the support of professional organizations.

■

Gearing up for the anticipated debate on children's issues in the 101st Congress, two groups have published resource documents for policymakers and citizens.

Giving Children a Chance: the Case for More Effective National Policies, published by the Center for National Policy Press and edited by Representative George Miller of California, presents perspectives on children's policy issues by prominent educators, medical and child-development experts, and national organizations. It also includes a report airing corporate leaders' views on children's issues.

The Children's Defense Fund's "Child Care: Key Facts" offers a summary of statistics on working parents and child-care arrangements and descriptions of proposals to expand the federal role in child care. —D.C.